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THE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE LEAGUE

In reporting to the French Parliament upon the national budget, M. Nobelmaire discussed frankly the costs that were piling up for France, owing to her share in the administrative costs of the League of Nations, and the effect of his statements have been reflected in the proceedings of the Assembly at Geneva, where France has led in a determined effort to reduce the amount of money to be spent by the League, France insisting that the salaries paid are much too high, and that the offices and working plant of the League in Geneva are much too luxurious.

M. Nobelmaire insisted that the League should have a special controlling body, charged with supervision of the League's expenditures and auditing its accounts. He cited that in the first six months of its existence the League had cost 10,000,000 francs in gold, and that the third budget approved by the Council, that was to come before the Assembly in Geneva, called on France to pay 2,700,000 francs into the League treasury during 1921. He showed that the secretarial staff alone cost the signatory States more than 8,000,000 francs during the first six months of the League's life. The Brussels Conference cost the League 1,500,000 francs, and the International Labor Bureau had incurred expenses amounting to 8,000,000 francs and was asking for an enlarged staff, while for the work of the League as a whole its secretariat was proposing a "working fund" of 4,000,000 francs. Inasmuch as many parliaments of the signatory powers had not met the financial responsibilities involved in their membership in the League, M. Nobelmaire showed how the League had been forced to become a debtor and to borrow funds for its running expenses. His plea is for stricter accounting, more severe economy in administration, and all possible effort to save the League secretariat from becoming a bureaucracy. France, he said, must stand for this broader policy, if it is to stay in the League and to pay its share. Any other policy would be folly, in the light of the plight of the national treasury and credit.

THE ASSEMBLY'S REACTIONS

This problem of keeping the administrative expenses of the League within bounds came before the meeting of the Assembly at Geneva quite early in the sessions, and at times took on quite an acrimonious form of debate, with specific charges against the extravagance of the salaries paid the secretariat and the status of splendor in which the League's officials are housed, etc. French, Swedish, and Canadian champions of economy were conspicuous, and the net effect of the debate was to make temporary appointment of commissions to do specific tasks for the League rather than to set up new permanent commissions, as had been recommended by the administrative officials at Berne and by the Council. The Argentina Republic's representatives, after they withdrew from the Assembly, announced that the Republic would not be liable for further assessments.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, 1919-1920

The Storthing of Norway, functioning in accord with the terms of the bequest of Alfred Nobel, has awarded two peace prizes, one for 1919 to M. Leon Bourgeois, the eminent French promoter of international arbitral and judicial relations and a representative of France in the Council of the

League of Nations, and the other—for 1920—to President Wilson.

The latter, in instructing the American Minister to Norway to accept on his behalf the award of the Storthing, wrote:

In accepting the honor of your award, I am moved not only by a profound gratitude for the recognition of my earnest efforts in the cause of peace, but also by a very poignant humility before the vastness of the work still called for by this cause.

May I not take this occasion to express my respect for the farsighted wisdom of the founder in arranging for a continuing system of awards?

If there were but one such prize, or if this were to be the last, I could not, of course, accept it. For mankind has not yet been rid of the unspeakable horror of war. I am convinced that our generation has, despite its wounds, made notable progress. But it is the better part of wisdom to consider our work as only begun. It will be a continuing labor. In the indefinite course of years before us, there will be abundant opportunity for others to distinguish themselves in the crusade against hate and fear and war.

There is, indeed, a peculiar fitness in the grouping of these Nobel awards. The Cause of Peace and the Cause of Truth are of one family. Even as those who love science and devote their lives to physics or chemistry, even as those who would create new and higher ideals for mankind in literature, even so with those who love peace, there is no limit set. Whatever has been accomplished in the past is petty compared to the glory and promise of the future.

PRIZE ESSAYS ON PEACE THEMES

The American School Citizenship League, formerly the American School Peace League, in announcing its 1920-1921 prize essay contest, again opens the competition to students of all countries. One contest is for seniors in normal schools. The theme on which competitors will write will be, "What education can do to secure co-operation as against competition between nations." The other contest is open to seniors in secondary schools, and the theme is, "The essential foundations of a co-operating world." Three prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25 will be given for the best three essays in each set. The judges, of whom there are eight, are educators prominent in normal-school and high-school work, and the list is headed by Paul Monroe, director of the School of Education, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York City. Essays must not exceed 5,000 words in length; must be accompanied by a topical outline, and preferably be in typewriting. They should be sent to Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews, Secretary of the League, 405 Marlborough Street, not later than June 21, 1921. One of the prize-winners in the 1919-20 contest lives in England, and the other prize-winners were from Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MESOPOTAMIAN MANDATE

On November 26 the following communication from the Secretary of State of the United States to the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was made public, without the series of five which had preceded it. The full text of the correspondence, giving the British side of the case, is soon to appear in a White Book.

Mr. Colby, the representative of the United States, wrote: